

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of producing elastic cuffs for ~~assembling a resultant garment~~ obtained from a web of precursor garment garments ~~on a continuous line~~, the steps comprising:

a) applying necking tension to the web of precursor ~~garment garments~~ to neck a cuff area of ~~the a precursor garment~~ to a first width ~~in a first direction of the precursor garments~~, the cuff area of the precursor garment being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing an elastic material to the cuff area while at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from the precursor garment with the elastic material thereon and causing the precursor garment to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the cuff area having the elastic material thereon; and

d) whereby the elastic material holds the cuff area of the resultant garment at a dimension narrower than the second width.

2. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the step of affixing an elastic material to the cuff area further comprises applying a pre-elastic when the precursor garments are at the first width, and treating the pre-elastic to become an elastomeric while the precursor garments are at the first width.

3. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor garment comprises a backsheet web layer.

4. (original) The method according to Claim 3 wherein precursor garment further comprises a topsheet web layer.

5. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor garments comprise an assembled diaper lacking only the cuff area.

6. (original) The method according to Claim 3 wherein the backsheet web layer comprises material selected from the group comprising: neckable nonwovens, neckable films, neckable laminates, or combinations thereof.

7. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic material is untensioned when applied to the precursor garment, whereby it merely holds the cuff area at the first narrower dimension thereby resulting in a flat cuff area.

8. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic material is applied under tension thereby gathering the precursor garment and providing a doubly expandable cuff area with a first stage expansion taking out the gathers, and a second stage expansion expanding the material of the garment body.

9. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 further including applying a precursor elastic to the cuff area and treating the precursor elastic to become elastomeric while the cuff area is at the first width.

10. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 9 further including treating the precursor elastic with heat.

11. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is a leg cuff area.

12. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is a waistband area.

13. (currently amended) A method of producing selectively elastic areas in a web ~~suitable for~~ precursor garments, the web having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

a) necking the web to a first width ~~on a continuous line~~, with width being measured in the lateral direction, the web being expandable to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing an elastic material to a selected area of the web when the web is at the first width; and

c) removing necking tension from the selected area of the web with the elastic thereon and causing the selected area of the web to assume the second width at areas outside the selected area of the web, and whereby the elastic material holds the selected area of the web at a dimension narrower than the second width.

14. (currently amended) A method of producing elastic waistbands for a resultant garment obtained from a web of precursor garment

~~garments on a continuous line~~, the precursor ~~garment~~-garments having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

- a) applying necking tension to the web of precursor ~~garment garments~~ to neck a waistband portion of ~~the a~~ precursor garment to a first width in the lateral direction of the precursor garment, the waistband portion of the precursor garment being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;
- b) affixing an elastic material to the waistband portion while at the first width;
- c) removing necking tension from the precursor garment with the elastic material thereon and causing the precursor garment to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the waistband portion having elastic material; and
- d) whereby the elastic material holds the waistbands of the resultant garment at a dimension narrower than the second width.

15. (currently amended) A method of producing elastic leg cuffs for a resultant garment obtained from a web of precursor ~~garment~~-~~garments on a continuous line~~, the precursor ~~garment~~-~~garments~~ having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

- a) applying necking tension to the web of precursor ~~garment garments~~ to neck a leg cuff area of ~~the a~~ precursor garment to a first width in the longitudinal direction of the precursor garment, the leg cuff area of the precursor garment being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing an elastic material to the leg cuff area while at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from the precursor garment with the elastic material thereon and causing the precursor garment to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the leg cuff area having elastic material; and

d) whereby the elastic material holds the leg cuff areas of the resultant garment at a dimension narrower than the second width.

16. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is a nonrugose, ungathered, and unshirred cuff area of a first material, the first material having an untensioned elastomeric second material thereon.

17. (original) The method of Claim 16 wherein the cuff area is a waistband.

18. (original) The method of Claim 16 wherein the cuff area is a leg opening.

19. (original) The method of Claim 16 wherein the cuff area is expandable by 25% of its original dimension.

20. (original) The method of Claim 16 wherein the cuff area is expandable by 50% of its original dimension.

21. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is a nonrugose, ungathered, and unshirred cuff area of a first material, the first material having an elastomeric second material thereon of sufficiently low tension so as to not cause gathering and shirring of the first material.

22. (original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the cuff area is a waistband.

23. (original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the cuff area is a leg opening.

24. (original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the cuff area is expandable by 25% of its original dimension.

25. (original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the cuff area is expandable by 50% of its original dimension.